

# Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 30 | Min 16 | Humidity 65%

Mainly clear sky. Misty morning

Sensex 57,621

Nifty 17,213

Gold 48,183

Silver 61,832

Dollar 74.68

Euro 85.39

GBP 101.03



## HOLE-SOME SOLUTION

PAGE 4

## THE PARROT TRAP

PAGE 5



**'Cobras and vipers constitute 41.5% and 18.9% human-snake encounters in Bengaluru, respectively, making 60.4% contacts potentially deadly'**

# THE HOOD LIFE

**'Marked decline in non-venomous species'**

PIC: P NIVEDH/PEXELS

**| Garima Prasher**  
mybangaloremirror  
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**T**here is a sharp increase in the number of cobras and vipers in Bengaluru, a recent study, and latest data furnished by snake rescuers have revealed.

Cobras and vipers, two of the most venomous snakes, are responsible for the majority of deaths due to snakebites in India.

"The number of calls to rescue Spectacled Cobras and Russell's Vipers has increased tremendously. Earlier, around 20% calls used to be to rescue cobras; it has gone up to approximately 80%. Calls to rescue Russell's Vipers have also doubled," said Shuayb Ahmad, city-based snake rescuer, working with the BBMP.

The study noted that the two species of cobra and viper, constitute 41.5% and 18.9% of the snakes, respectively, encountered by humans in urban Bengaluru, cumulatively making 60.4% of the city's human-snake encounters potentially deadly. This number is expected to surge further.

A total of 33 snake species are found in Bengaluru.

"The population of Spectacled Cobras and Russell's Vipers has skyrocketed and is expected to go up further leading to more human-snake encounters," said Yatin Kalki, a herpetologist who's a co-author of the study.



**“Relocation of innocuous snake species creates a void for venomous snakes to move in...”**

— Yatin Kalki, herpetologist

Experts said rampant urbanisation and accumulation of garbage are among reasons behind the rise in the aforementioned serpent numbers.

"Due to the rapid geographical extent of the city, we are like-

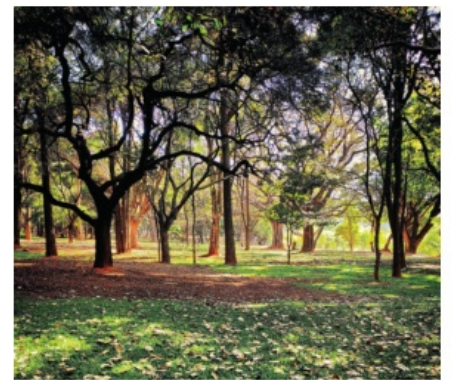
ly to see an increase in human-snake conflicts as time progresses. Spectacled Cobras and Russell's Vipers are habitat-generalists and feed on rodents. Accumulation of garbage and food waste around human settle-

ments make rodents abundant, providing an excellent food base. The sewers and stormwater drains act as highways not only for rats but also for the snakes that eat them.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 &gt;&gt;

## Life line for lakes

**BBMP to create 36 parks around city's lakes under Amruta Nagarothana Scheme**



**| Iffath.Fathima**  
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**T**he Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will create 36 parks in some of the lakes across Bengaluru by year-end, under the Amruta Nagarothana Scheme of the state government.

According to BBMP, these parks shall sustain rich biodiversity at the lakes and people could spend more time around the waterbodies.

Chief minister Basvaraj Bommai had announced a special package of Rs 6,000 crore under the Amruta Nagarothana Scheme for Bengaluru. Apart from various developmental projects, the scheme shall also develop the lakes and parks. A total of 75 lakes and parks are part of the project, which includes 39 waterbodies and 36 parks.

BBMP will carry out the process by adding parks in the 36 lakes. Some of the lakes where the parks will come up are Byrasandra Lake, Gubbala Lake, Doddakallasandra Lake, Chunchaghatta Lake, Yelenahalli Lake, Konappana Agrahara Lake, Chikabasthi Lake, Sarakki Lake, Karnoor Lake, Anjanapura Lake, Iblur Lake, Agara Lake, Uttarahalli Lake, JP Park Lake and Vibhutipura Lake.

Officials, meanwhile, pointed out that by creating a park inside the lake, the BBMP is not looking at making it recreational but

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 &gt;&gt;

## 3 THINGS TO DO



### 01 Winter melodies

Take a break from the stress and monotony of work by attending a beautiful musical evening at Lahe Lahe. The session will have musical aficionados come and jam together and form a community of like-minded musical souls. What's more, you can even tune out a few songs of yourself too!

**Where:** Lahe Lahe, HAL 2nd stage, Indiranagar  
**When:** Wednesdays, 7:30pm - 9:30pm  
**Tickets:** 9886294444



### 02 Bookworms, unite

Bibliophiles, what are you reading these days? Is there a book or an author that has amazed you recently? Discuss it with like-minded people at this special club for bookworms and share the magic of some wordsmiths who not only influenced us but shaped our lives in some way.

**Where:** Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar  
**When:** Feb 12, 4-5 pm  
**Register:** 9886294444



### 03 Work from museum

Tired of working from home? Looking for a change in your work environment? There's good news for you. The Indian Music Experience (IME) is inviting working professionals, freelancers and creative people to #WorkFromMuseum at IME. It's time to pack your bag and explore a new and creative environment to work with ease and a lot of other benefits at the museum.

**Working days:** Tuesday to Sunday  
**Timings:** 10 am - 6 pm  
**For queries:** 9886602366

# Medical colleges to thrash out fee issue

## Colleges unhappy with National Medical Commission order asking private medical institutes to charge government-fixed fee for 50% of the seats

**Sridhar.Vivan**  
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

**P** private medical colleges in the city will convene a meeting on February 11 comprising all the heads of private, deemed and minority institutions to discuss the latest National Medical Commission (NMC) order which states that private medical colleges and deemed universities can charge government-fixed fee for 50 per cent of the seats, as against the earlier 40 per cent.

In Karnataka, the seat-sharing arrangement is such that private colleges offer 40 per cent of seats to students at the fee fixed by government while they are free to charge the fee as per their management's decision for the remaining 60 per cent. With no unanimity, many medical colleges charge exorbitant fees under management quota.

Taking exception to this order, M R Jayaram, (chairman, Karnataka Professional Colleges Foundation) said that his association was studying the order in detail.

However, students are welcoming the move. Nandan Gowda, a II-year PU student said, "I have been preparing hard for the MBBS. However, if I don't get a seat in government quota, I may not be able to pursue medicine due to the hefty fee structure in management quota. This order, if implemented, can benefit hundreds of students like me. My brother who was also a med-



Some colleges feel the order is unfair as many institutes are financially unstable due to covid

**"If I don't get into government quota, I may not be able to pursue the course due to the hefty fee structure"**

—Nandan Gowda, a II-year PU student

ical aspirant had missed out on his medicine course as he could not pay the fee."

The latest order issued by Dr Sandhya Bhullar (Secretary, NMC) states, "After extensive consultations, it has been decided that the fee of the 50 per cent seats in private medical colleges and deemed universities should be at par with the fee in government medical colleges of that particular state. The benefit of this fee structure would be first made available to those candidates who have availed government quota seats but limited to

the extent of 50 of total sanctioned strength of the respective medical college/deemed university. However, if the government quota seats are less than 50 per cent of the total sanctioned seats, the remaining candidates could avail benefit of the fee equivalent to the government medical college fees based purely on merit."

The decision came after a reconstituted committee of NMC examined 1,800 responses from students and submitted the revised draft guidelines. Besides this, NMC has also issued important decisions stating that no

institutions should charge capitation fee in any form. "For determination of MBBS/PG courses fee, the institutions need to follow the principle of education being not for profit. The operating cost should primarily form the basis for the determination of fees for medical education."

The NMC also stated that the fee can be fixed for a block of three years or on a year-to-year basis. The fee fixed for a student joining college in a particular year should remain the same for the entire duration of his/her study in the college subject to inflation adjustment as considered appropriate by the State Fee Regulatory authority. It also stated that all hospital expenses are not to be included in computing costs for providing medical education.

# Genome sequencing in the spotlight

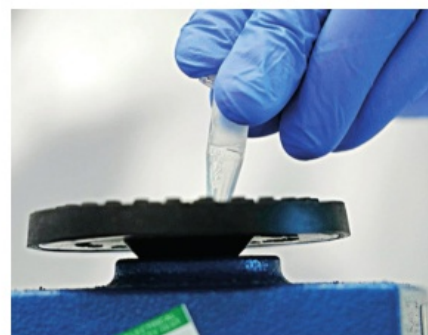
**Naveen Shivanna**  
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**K**arnataka, which has the fourth highest number of cases of Omicron variants, has now decided to ramp up the genome sequencing tests.

Commissioner for Health and Family Welfare D Randeep said: "Though the routine whole genome sequencing (WGS) was undertaken with 15 samples fortnightly from each district, the state has now decided to conduct a special genome sequencing surveillance with a larger proportion of daily positive samples to be sequenced from February 2-28. Karnataka has a target of sequencing 10,000 samples in this month."

The WGS activity is being conducted by



the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) and National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) across the country through the Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) network. Over the

past few months, many variants have been detected -- including Omicron -- through the WGS. These samples are being sent for WGS through NIMHANS & InStem, Bengaluru.

Randeep has instructed all the ICMR-approved (government and private) RT-PCR CENTR labs to select 10 per cent of all daily positives this month for mapping. The following categories of patients will be considered for WGS: patients with international travel history (irrespective of CT value), representative samples from clusters/ focal outbreaks with severe morbidity and/or mortality, seriously sick, hospitalised patients and prolonged hospital admissions, re-infection, infections in individuals who have been vaccinated with two doses and have completed 15 days after second dose and Covid death cases.

# Woman asks for lift, flees with man's gold chain

The victim, an advocate, was driving home from work when the incident happened

Pragna L Krupa  
pragna.krupa  
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

**A**n advocate driving home was cheated by a woman who, on the pretext of taking a lift, stole his gold chain and fled. The incident took place on St Marks Road on February 3.

After driving for 100 metres, the man realised that his chain was missing when she stole it during an attempt to hug him in the car.

The advocate, Anuj P, (name changed), a resident of Marathahalli, filed a complaint with the Cubbon Park police on Saturday. The incident took place on Thursday around 6:50 pm while he was leaving from his office on St Marks Road. He told the police that he was on his way home and was waiting outside the gate for the traffic to clear up.

"An unknown lady approached me and asked for a lift when I was on a call with my wife; I did not respond when she got inside my car and sat in the front seat. As the traffic started to clear, she asked me to take a right turn and when I cut the call, she told me that I was her first customer for the day. I told her that I was an advocate and I was on my way to Lavelle Road when she requested me to drop her off at the Airlines Hotel. While I was driving the car, she forcefully tried to hug me and when I resisted and pushed her away, she got down from the car and left."

He stated that after driving for a few metres, he realised that his gold chain weighing 24 gram was missing. After checking thoroughly inside his car, he



The man's 24-gram gold chain was stolen by the woman

**The woman got inside the car only with an intention to steal, and made her move in a busy intersection so that she could get away with it**

— a senior police officer

realised that she had stolen the chain and fled. After two days, he approached the police and filed a complaint.

A senior police officer said that this was the first such case reported in their jurisdiction and they were trying to trace the accused. "The lady got inside the car only with an intent to steal and made her move in a busy junction so that she could easily get away with it. There were about eight shops which were around his office when she got inside the car and we have collected the CCTV footages from all the shops to examine. We will soon identify her and arrest," he said.

Cubbon Park police have registered a case under IPC Section 420 (cheating) and 379 (theft). An investigation is underway.

## Cabbie robbed at knifepoint

Two armed men robbed a 27-year-old cab driver at knifepoint while he was taking a nap on 5th Main Road, HSR Layout on Sunday night. The victim, Srinath, driving for a cab aggregator company, was waiting for a customer and dozed off when he woke up to a knock on his car window. As soon as Srinath opened the window, they duo barged into the car,

threatened him at knifepoint and snatched away his gold chain, mobile phone and wallet before fleeing away on their bike. The police have taken up a case of robbery and are verifying CCTV footage to identify the culprits. We have some definite clues on the accused and they will be arrested soon, said a senior police officer.

## HC takes BBMP to task over potholes

**T**he Karnataka High Court once again took Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials to task for not filling potholes. During a hearing on Monday, BBMP's chief engineer attended the court hearing. The court observed that so far, nine people have lost lives due to potholes and questioned why FIRs should not be filed against the chief engineer.

The court also questioned BBMP engineers why they should not be held responsible for the whole issue. The court also mentioned that the tax-

payers' money was being wasted and wondered why the roads which are being asphalted were filled with potholes. The Chief Justice warned that the engineers would be sent to jail if they don't take the issue seriously.

### Use body cameras

In another important ruling, HC directed the police to use body cameras. The court also directed the traffic police to implement smart policing. The government submitted that out of 2,680 body cameras, 1,097 have been bought already.



Many lives have been lost due to the never-ending problem of potholes

## Your key to a bright future

# GUARANTEED

**LIC's BIMA JYOTI**

Plan No.: 860 UIN: 512N339V02

(A Non-Linked, Non-Participating, Individual, Life Assurance Savings Plan)

Also Available Online

Get **Guaranteed Additions\*** every year

- ✓ Age Eligibility: 90 days - 60 years
- ✓ Basic Sum Assured: ₹1 Lakh - No Limit
- ✓ Policy Term: 15 to 20 years
- ✓ Premium Paying Term: Policy Term minus 5 years
- ✓ Loan Available

Call Centre Services (022) 6827 6827

\*Guaranteed additions @ ₹ 50/- per thousand Basic Sum Assured will be added at the end of each policy year till maturity/death in case of inforce policies.

For details, contact your Agent/Nearest LIC Branch/visit [www.licindia.in](http://www.licindia.in) or SMS YOUR CITY NAME to 56767474

Follow us : LIC India Forever | IRDAI Regn No.: 512

BEWARE OF SPURIOUS PHONE CALLS AND FICTITIOUS / FRAUDULENT OFFERS. IRDAI is not involved in activities like selling insurance policies, announcing bonus or investment of premiums. Public receiving such phone calls are requested to lodge a police complaint. For more details on risk factors, terms and conditions, please read sales brochure carefully before concluding a sale.

भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम  
LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA

Har Pal Aapke Saath

LIC/PBA/2021-22/41/Eng

# HOLE TRIPPING

**Bengaluru-based team is filling potholes across India, creating awareness regarding electric vehicles, encouraging students to pursue startups with record setting road trip**

Iffath Fathima  
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**A**n all India road trip, covering 15,000 kms in 54 days, initiated by Bengaluru's Pothole Raja set out to fix over 1,000 potholes in different cities and created a world record for the longest trip via an electric vehicle. The road trip, with three main agendas, also wants to inspire college students to look into startups.

The team started their journey on February 4 from Bengaluru and have covered Mangaluru, Ernakulam, Kanyakumari and Pattukottai via Rameshwaram so far. They should reach Chennai today and will cover other cities like Ongole, Vishakapatnam, Kolkata, Darjeeling, Gangtok, Guwahati and others soon.

When they reach Chennai the team will visit a college and educate and encourage students to look into startups. While students keep track of localities that need potholes to be fixed, the team will ensure they fix the identified spots.

An automated truck machine is used to fix the potholes. The truck has a blower which will clean the road and will then put emulsion and tar. With the truck, it hardly takes five minutes to fix a pothole.

Sourabh Kumar, co-founder, Pothole Raja, said, "We will be establishing road safety throughout the journey and will be encouraging participation to engage citizens in promoting road safety in their neighbourhood. The target is to fill 1,000 potholes in most cities."

This apart, John Kuruvilla



The pothole-fixing truck. Below: Sourabh Kumar and the two bikers riding electric vehicles for Pothole Raja



and Gautam Khot from Brigade Reap, will ride two electric vehicles to complete 14,000 km on electric vehicles. Earlier, a male from Europe had covered 12,379 km and set a Guinness World Book of record for the longest journey on an EV vehicle.

Kumar said, "The idea to have people ride electric vehicles for a long distance is to create awareness about sustainability and the environment. Many think that they cannot cover long distances with electric vehicles. We want to raise awareness that most cities do have charging infrastructure and if one plans the trip based on charging stations, one can travel far at a lower cost. We are even keeping additional charged batteries with us in case of emergencies."

**Many think they cannot cover long distances with electric vehicles. But most cities do have the charging infrastructure**

—Sourabh Kumar, co-founder, Pothole Raja

Over 20 colleges will be involved in this drive. At the colleges, the team will inspire students to pursue startups. "We believe everybody has an entrepreneurial mindset. Students will get into it sooner or later with the right push and nudge," Kumar said.

## Parks to breathe life into lakes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

focus is on creating a green patch.

"The parks will add to the green cover, with different species of trees, shrubs and creepers. We will focus on native plants. The green cover will be well designed as well. It can range up to 2 acres and more; however, planning is still under progress. The project is said to be completed by the year-end," said BBMP special commissioner for estates, education, horticulture Reddy Shankar Babu.

He added that currently the plan is to not add open air gyms but rather to keep it green: "In most lakes, apart from the jogging track and fencing, there are barren areas. We could use this space to add the green patch. We will add flowering or fruit bearing plants so that birds visit the lake as this will even enrich the biodiversity," added Babu.

It is estimated that Rs 10 crore will be sanctioned for the project:



"We will add in ornamental and forest plant species in the green patches. Green cover will usher in change and people would visit lakes more often," added Chandrashekhar,

deputy director, horticulture department.

So far, the BBMP has developed many outdoor parks in different zones. Among the 1,348 parks, there

are over 1,118 parks which have been developed while 230 are yet to see any development. The highest number of developed parks are in the South zone with 255 parks developed, followed by the East zone with 254 and West zone with 208 parks. Bommanahalli has 120 parks while RR Nagar has a total of 113 parks. In Yelahanka, 102 parks were developed, while Mahadevpura has 37 developed parks alongside 29 developed public parks in Dasarahalli.

However, officials pointed out that there has been an acute shortage of funds for the development of parks in the city, which is why it is taking a long time. "The budget for park infra is meagre; another big challenge is maintenance of parks, which is highly expensive. In some of the parks, public satisfaction is not met, as we have a low budget and are not able to provide a park with all the necessities; we are trying."

whatsapp  
**MIRROR**  
**9591233247**

**Problems in your area?**  
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

**In a jam**  
JP Nagar



The 6th Phase is awfully crowded everyday. The authorities concerned must find a way to ease the congestion in this area.

**Incomplete work**  
Cambridge Layout



The sidewalk on the Cambridge Layout bridge has not been completed. BBMP must finish the work here.

**Consider this**  
Nandidurga Road



The sidewalks on Nandidurga Road have been raised higher. This is inconvenient for the specially abled, dog walkers, senior citizens and parents with prams.

# Bangalore Mirror DELVES INTO THE CLANDESTINE AND UGLY WORLD OF ILLEGAL PARAKEET TRADE

## The Jail Birds

| Bellie.Thomas@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @Bellie\_MIRROR

**I**llegal trade, especially online trading of Alexandrine parakeets (talking parakeets) is raising concern among wildlife conservationists who say that these birds face more than double the risk of getting endangered when compared to other birds in the wild.

Avinandan, India Representative, World Parrot Trust and also a parrot researcher says though India has been blessed with 12 different parrot families including the Alexandrine ones and is home for a considerable numbers, in terms of their population, these birds could be on their way to extinction, and the primary reason is said to be the illegal trade.

"Birds in the wild like the woodpecker face up to 17 per cent of risk of threats or getting endangered due to the usual factors such as climate change, habitat loss, infections, pollution (dirty water) etc, but the percentage of the risk of threats to the parrots species or getting endangered, is 45 per cent (more than double is this threatened species) which includes around 20 per cent of the natural factors and the rest - illegal trading," Avinandan says.

Alexandrine parakeets were found to exist originally 300 to 400 years ago, and they are found all the way from Northern Afghanistan to southern Vietnam and to Sri Lanka and Andaman's Islands and India. They are also found in the Himalayas and some of the parrot families have migratory aptitude. Alexandrine parakeets have become a little scarce in South India, says bird experts. "Earlier, the type specimen was found in Senjikottai also known as gingee fort in Tamil Nadu, but at present it is completely extinct from that spot and around," adds Avinandhan.



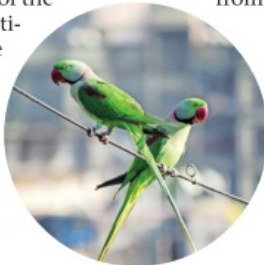
Not only illegal trading of parakeets but also keeping these birds as pets is considered crime under the Wildlife Protection Act, but still the trade thrives as there is demand and naturally a supply chain exists, say other bird experts.

Young parakeet hatchlings are snatched away from their nests while waiting for their parents to return with food. Poachers know of their breeding seasons and this happens every year like a clockwork, experts say. In January, the poachers get on to the trees when they find parakeet hatchlings and snatch them away from their nests that are mostly found

on coconut trees in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and take them to Chennai. Here the birds are handed over to a separate group of caretakers who are also a part of the trade. As the initial one month is crucial for each parakeet's survival, it's a challenge and a delicate affair with care being given through expertise as the birds are prone to infections and die. The hatchlings are fed with baby food until they grow a little in size and then photographs are taken and the online trading happens.

Experts say, on an average, for every 500 parakeet hatchlings only around 150 of them make it to households after they are sold. In this trade, the poachers also use students as a part of their trade as they are tech savvy and they are the ones who upload on online portals for sale and earn exploiting wildlife. While Chennai is one of the old hubs of illegal parakeet trading, now all the Metro cities like Bengaluru are turning into hubs with this illegal parakeet training rampant through online portals, the experts said.

**The hatchlings are fed baby food until they grow a little bigger. Then their photographs are taken and online trading begins**



## 26 Alexandrine parakeet hatchlings rescued

**T**he city police, on Monday, arrested two persons and rescued around 26 Alexandrine parakeet hatchlings that have been taken to the where they are being nurtured. The arrested have been identified as Bharath and Akshith — one of who is just out of college and looking for a job while the other one is a part-time student and a part-time worker, the police said. The two told the police that they sourced these birds from their contacts in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and they were selling them to customers online in Bengaluru. The Varthur police have registered a case under the Wildlife Protection Act along with IPC sections involving Prevention of Animal Cruelty etc and are investigating. Wildlife conservationists are requesting members of the general public to not buy parakeets because the trade flourishes only when the demand is more in the market.



Rescued hatchlings at the Bannerghatta Rehabilitation Centre

| Iffath Fathima  
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

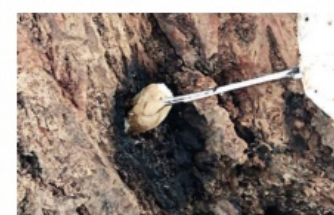
**A**s environmentalists and nature lovers try to save the garden city's green, some incidents set them back. In one such case, a tabebuia rosea tree was poisoned, allegedly by a resident of BTM Layout 2nd stage.

The tabebuia rosea tree's pink or even white and yellow blossoms are pretty much the pride of the city. These trees have been planted as avenue trees in many localities. The flowering season of the tree is from February and goes on till April. During this period, a large number of people are found taking pictures and sharing it on their social media accounts. So when this incident of poisoning in BTM layout 2nd stage, eighth cross came to light, it created a ripple. The culprit is said to have wanted the tree gone as its leaves would fall on the road and "dirty" the surroundings.

Narendra Babu, BBMP range forest officer, who visited the spot on Monday, said, "It was an attempt to kill the tree by drilling holes in it and putting in chemicals. We found out from the other residents that a person whose house is close to the tree has tried to kill it as the leaves kept falling. An FIR has been filed in this regard."

Luckily, the tree has chances of survival due to the quick intervention of tree doctor Vijay Nishanth, and certain residents who alerted him about it.

A resident who used to go for daily walks noticed that the tree's branches and the leaves were drying out.



Tree doctor Nishanth at work pouring in medicines into the hole through which chemicals were put in a tree in BTM Layout

On taking a closer look, he noticed that the tree had holes in it from its root to even the trunk. Over 10 holes were drilled inside the tree, over a foot deep and chemicals had been poured inside. Nishanth said, "Treatment was given to the tree on Monday. However, it is sad to see that people are still engaged in killing trees and do not realise the importance of trees. As some residents alerted us, we could save the tree and file an FIR, but it is high time the authorities take strict action against the ones responsible for trying to kill the tree."

He added that people should keep an eye out for the trees in their localities, so that such incidents don't take place. According to Babu, the deputy conservator of forest has have to take a call on the offence. "As per Karnataka Preservation of Trees Act, the incident is punishable with imprisonment of up to three months or a fine. The DCF will take a call on what needs to be done next," he said. The resident who spotted the shocking development too demanded strict action.

## THE MURDER OF A TREE

# Why venomous snake numbers are rising

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Consequently, these animals can stay unseen while surviving in urban areas," added Yatin.

## Non-venomous snakes in decline

The population of non-poisonous snakes is dwindling. The study indicated that Common Cat Snake, Indian Wolf Snake, Buff Striped Keelback and Banded Racer have become rare in Bengaluru.

Experts blamed it on habitat destruction, decline in prey base and the fallout of the climate crisis.

"Barren land with grass or thorny crops is considered waste land and converted to residential or commercial areas. However, these 'waste lands' are prime habitats for many snake species and their prey bases. Snakes, when spotted in the city limits, are either captured and relocated by untrained 'rescuers' to far off places or even killed; these factors contribute to decline in population," said Karthik AK, co-author of the study and a member of Wildlife Conservation Group.

Non-venomous snakes require a specific type of habitat to survive and



## DEATHS BY SNAKEBITE (2000-2019)

| Age      | Male     | Female   | Both      |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 0-14     | 1,49,000 | 1,76,000 | 3,25,000  |
| 15-29    | 1,09,000 | 88,000   | 1,97,000  |
| 30-69    | 2,90,000 | 2,53,000 | 5,43,000  |
| 70 plus  | 54,000   | 48,000   | 1,02,000  |
| All ages | 6,02,000 | 5,65,000 | 11,67,000 |

**If a snake has entered your home, call a professional snake rescuer, and keep an eye on it until they arrive to capture and relocate**

are highly susceptible to changes in the land use. Some of them have limited prey bases and others depend on distinct conditions for reproduction that can only be found in natural settings. Any change in land use pattern due to urbanisation creates a devastating impact on these habitat-specialist species.

"Urbanisation and development have destroyed the tropical deciduous and thorn forests of Bengaluru. This has led to a drastic drop in the populations of Common Cat Snakes, Green Vine Snakes and Bronzeback Tree Snakes. These are arboreal serpents and have suffered due to the change in the landscape. The numbers of Saw-scaled Vipers, Green Keelbacks

and Olive Keelbacks have diminished too. The latter two species have a peculiar requirement of clean waterbodies as their habitat. Unfortunately, most of the lakes in the city are heavily polluted. Hebbal Lake once had a good population of Olive Keelbacks, but today, one can hardly spot any. On the one hand, the number of rats has gone up; on the other hand, we are losing prey bases such as garden lizards, rock agamas and birds, which are preferred by non-venomous snake species," said Shuayb.

## How to mitigate conflict?

According to experts, non-poisonous Rat Snakes and Keelbacks can act as our allies in controlling the population

of venomous snakes, thus reducing the number of encounters and deaths. Coexistence with the non-poisonous snakes, short-range relocation of venomous ones, and taking precautions are some of the ways to mitigate human-snake conflicts in the city.

"Non-venomous snakes compete with cobras and vipers for resources; so, areas that have more harmless snakes are less likely to have venomous ones. Additionally, large Rat Snakes often feed on smaller snakes, including venomous ones. When people call snake rescuers to relocate innocuous snake species, it creates a void for venomous snakes to move in. So, we need to treat the harmless snakes around our homes in the same way we treat

the squirrels or birds," said Yatin.

Moreover, akin to any man-animal encounter, creating awareness is the first step towards conflict mitigation.

"People should be educated about venomous and non-venomous snakes. A large number of snakebites are the results of people trying to capture or kill snakes. This can be prevented by following precautions such as using a torch while moving around at night and never attempting to handle or kill snakes. If a snake has entered your home, call a professional snake rescuer, and keep an eye on it until they arrive to capture and relocate. Do remember that snakes are not vicious monsters that are out to bite us. They are more scared of us than we are of them," added Karthik.

India recorded 11.67 lakh deaths due to snakebites from 2000 to 2019, averaging 58,000/year. Total deaths for the 2001-2014 study period were 8,07,500. Deaths for 2000-2019 were calculated by extrapolating these annual deaths. The extrapolated annual deaths in thousands for outside the study period were 54.0 for 2000, 62.3 for 2015, 62.0 for 2016, 61.4 for 2017, 60.3 for 2018 and 59.8 for 2019.

## Your Connect

### real estate

#### BANGALORE PROPERTIES

#### BANASHANKARI

**FOR SALE :** 40 X 60 PREMIUM NORTH FACING BDA SITE IN BSK- III STAGE, OPP TO BIG BAZAAR. Rs.4 Cr 75 Lakhs (Negotiable). Call-97409 10078.

#### PROPERTY ANCILLARIES

#### LEASE & RENT

**INDUSTRIAL** Building for Rent @ Bommasandra Industrial Area. 20,000 Sq. Ft. (1st Floor), 12 Ft. height, ready to occupy, power as per requirement. # 9886092105, 9845473498

### shopping

#### CLOCKS AND WATCHES



**WE BUY** Old Rolex, Omega, Tudor, Breguet, Patek Philippe, AP, VC, Cartier etc Contact : Atul: 9820147144.

### jobs

#### SITUATION VACANT

#### ACADEMIC

#### TEACHER

#### REQUIRED TEACHERS NEW CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL,

CA Site No: 6 (P), WOC Road, II stage, Mahalkshimpuram, Bangalore -560086.

Contact: 9886006459 / 9845087439 / 8660136247

Vice Principal post with subject expertise English & Social.

And teachers (Bsc/ BA B.Ed) with minimum 5 years Exp handling CBSE board in English and social.

Sanskrit teacher (BA/MA B.Ed) for class 5 to 8

### services

#### LOOKING FOR BRIDE?

Delhi based Handsome boy height 5'7"/90, working as a Corporate Lawyer with a multinational company.

Email at: abc@xyz.com

Call on: 91XXXXXXX

SCAN, SELECT & PAY for this attractive Template



- Logon to ads.timesgroup.com  
- Select Classified Display & City  
- Select the Design of your choice & Pay Online

#### CHANGE OF NAME

**I, JAFFAR HUSSAIN ZAKIR,** R/at 135, Police Quarters, Shivajinagar, Bangalore-560051. I, Have changed my name to R.M. JAFFER QURAISHI, Vide Affidavit Dated: 07/02/2022. Sworn before Notary: C.V. Earappa, Advocate, Bangalore

## TO BOOK YOUR TIMES INTERACT ADS

**Stay safe. Stay home.**

Call/mail us for contact-less ad booking. To book your Times Interact ads

**Call 080-23338111 / 9986482217**

Email: ebenezer.winston@timesgroup.com

All digital payment solutions available

### personal

#### LOST & FOUND

**I, Rajeshwari Magadum W/o** Sadanand Maruti Hegde R/o flat-305 Srimitra Spring Woods 3rd Floor Ecc Rd, Pattandur, Bengaluru-56006 have changed my name to Rajeshwari Sadanand Hegde.

**I, THASEENA BANU, R/at** No.7, Bourdillon Road, Fraser Town., Bangalore- 560005. I, Have changed my name to THASEEN BANU. Vide Affidavit Dated: 31/01/2022. Sworn before Notary: V. Rajashekhara, Advocate, Bangalore

**I JAYAMMA, R/O No 944, 2nd** 'A' Cross Road, 1st Block, 3rd Stage, West of Chord Road, Basaveshwar Nagar, Blore 79. I Have Lost Khata Document. Site no 866 located in Anjanapura on 31-01-22 near Home. If Anybody Found Please handover to the nearest Police station or Above mentioned address or Contact 9448224779

**I, AISHWARAYA MANIVANNAN R/at** No.521, Sriram Building 17th D Main, 6th E Cross, Behind Koramangala Club, 6th Block, Koramangala Bangalore-560034 have changed my name to AISWARYA MADHU MANIVANNAN vide affidavit dated: 4/2/2022 before Notary B.M. Chandrashekar Bangalore.

**I AIRRAH SOFIIA QAAZII, D/o** Haneefuddin Kazi, residing at No.9, 3rd Cross, Marappa Thota, J.C.Nagar, Bangalore-560006, changed my name from AIRRAH SOFIIA QAAZII to AFIFA SAAREYAH AATIKAH KAZI for all future purposes vide affidavit dated 03-02-2022 before Notary Sivakumara.M.N. Bangalore.

**I Sangeeta Santosh Dhatri R/o** A-803, Ramanajyothi Apts, Tumkur Road, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore- 560022, have changed my name to Sangeeta Dhatri

**I Manasa Baratam W/O** SriHari Rao Varanasi R/O Apt#A-409 Gowthami Meadows Shushruthi Nagar 2nd Cross Basapura Bangalore 560100 have changed my name to Manasa Varanasi for all purposes.

**I Sahana Shetty D/o Vasanth** Shetty Perdur R/o, A5 Cr Shelters, 1st Block, btm 4th Stage, Bannerghatta Road, Devarachikkana Halli, Bangalore 560076 have changed my name to Sahana Shetty Perdur for all purposes.

**I, Yasha Srinivasa D/o** Srinivasa Jayaram Residing at #27, 1st Main, 2nd A Cross, S K Garden Bangalore-560064 declare that I have changed my name to Yasha Srinivas for all purposes.



## LOOKING FOR GROOM?

FIND YOUR PERFECT MATCH USING BEAUTIFUL AD TEMPLATES

logon to

**ads.timesgroup.com**

Times of India official Ad Booking Platform



Buy 2 & Get 2 Ads Free

Book & Pay online

\*T&C Apply

© ads.timesgroup.com



Readers are recommended to make appropriate enquires and seek appropriate advice before sending money, incurring any expenses, acting on medical recommendations or entering into any commitment in relation to any claims made by the Advertisers of products and services. The Printer, Publisher, Editor, and Owners of The Times Of India Group publications shall not be held liable for any consequences, in the event such claims are not honoured by the Advertisers.



logon to

**ads.timesgroup.com**

Times of India official Ad Booking Platform

1. Select City & Publication
2. Create / Upload your own Ad



Readymade Creatives

100% Secure & Online

© ads.timesgroup.com

# Beyond a boundary

Aneeshwar Gautam pushes past pandemic problems, goes from practising in coffee plantation to winning World Cup in West Indies

Shreyashi Mukherjee  
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**T**he pandemic may have affected sports but not its spirit. Bengaluru cricketer Aneeshwar Gautam Narendra, filled with such sportsman spirit, excelled in the global sports arena. Aneeshwar was the lone cricketer from Bengaluru to become a part of the Indian team which won the fifth world cup in West Indies recently.

Aneeshwar had been training seriously since a young age and had a challenging time during covid. Due to the fear of being locked up in their apartment in Bengaluru, when covid cases were rising, Aneeshwar and his mother decided to head back to their native place near Chikkamagaluru last year. Being a remote place, the area did not have many facilities required for his training. The cricketer's nutritional diet too took a hit as most items he was to consume were not available there. Despite such troubles, Aneeshwar continued training and practised cricket at his family's coffee plantation.

At first, the player struggled to find a spot for practice. But soon, he picked their coffee yard to keep at it. Usually, a cricket ground is made of grass and clay. However, the coffee yard was made with bricks which made it very difficult for him to practice. A part of the yard was surrounded by a net for this.

"There was absolutely nothing available, not even proper wickets. So, I man-



Gautam kept training even when a brick yard at the plantation was the only pitch available

aged with whatever was available," said Aneeshwar.

Far from his usual facilities and the company of teammates, Aneeshwar did not take it easy during the pandemic. He put in the effort to polish his skills. Without any skilled bowlers around him, the cricketer continued to practice batting by purchasing a bowling machine from Hyderabad. He also ordered weights online to ensure that not a day of fitness training and practise was missed.

"When visiting my parents or even if people were sleeping in late, Aneeshwar would be up early and get on with his practice. He was self-motivated," said Gautam Narendra, Aneeshwar's father.

Not just Aneeshwar, his parents too worked towards his success and sacrificed where they had to.

"Staying away from our family and managing things in a new city was a major challenge for us. We would only meet for holidays. We also missed many family functions because we were completely involved in his diet and exercise. Moreover, many said that he should be attending school and writing exams instead of playing cricket. The money was also a factor," said Shwetha Gautam, his mother.

Aneeshwar, although already a cricket star, is still quite young. He is in his first year at college and is pursuing a BBA at St Joseph's College of Commerce. He is a left handed batsman and slow left orthodox bowler. From Bengaluru he flew to Dubai to take part in the Asia cup and from there he travelled to West Indies. He is expected to return to Bengaluru on February 9 or 10.



## Hijab row continues to simmer on

**T**he hijab controversy, which was earlier restricted to coastal districts in the state, has spread to other districts. Classes were boycotted in Vijayapura and students attended class with saffron shawls in Kolar.

In Vijayapura's Indi town, Hindu students of the Shanteshwara PU College and GRB College were seen clad in saffron shawls, protesting against Muslim students wearing hijabs. Vijayapura is considered a BJP stronghold and communally a sensitive region. The two colleges had to declare a holiday.

Meanwhile, students of Venkataramana College in Kundapur, Udupi district, were stopped at playgrounds for wearing saffron shawls. Sadashiva Gavaroji, sub-inspector, Kundapur Police Station, stopped students from entering the college premises. The Principal of Venkataramana College said that stu-

### Palike distributes uniforms to thwart controversy

Meanwhile, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has planned to take preventive measures fearing the surfacing of the hijab row in the

city. The administration has started distributing uniforms, shoes and books to students and aims to complete the exercise as early as possible.

dents wearing saffron shawls and hijabs won't be allowed inside college premises.

Intelligence agencies and the education department are on a high alert in this regard.

In another development, the police have taken two persons into custody in Udupi for flashing knives during the hijab-saffron shawl protest on February 5.

**State government said it would frame a policy on uniforms once the High Court gives its orders in this regard**

The police launched a search operation for three other persons who were spotted with weapons at the site of a student protest.

The Karnataka High Court will be hearing petitions by a group of Muslim students regarding the hijab row today. The students have sought directions for the government and education department to allow them to wear hijabs and attend classes. The state government has stated that they would frame a policy on uniform once the High Court gives its orders.

Chief Minister Basvaraj Bommai, who is currently in New Delhi, said that all the students must follow the

state government's order issued regarding uniforms. The students must not attempt to disturb peace, he added.

"The court order is coming tomorrow (Tuesday). The state government will take a decision on the issue once the order comes. As the case is before the court I don't want to speak about it," Bommai said.

Further, he said that there were forces active behind stirring up the hijab row in the state, as it had earlier surfaced in Kerala and Maharashtra.

"The students must come wearing uniforms to colleges. Students wearing hijabs and saffron shawls will not be permitted to enter. It's your wish that until you reach the college entrance you can wear clothes of your choice. Once you come inside the gate, you have to be in uniform," said Primary and Secondary Education Minister BC Nagesh.

—BMB + Agencies

## Phase I of tiger estimation survey done, dusted

Bangalore Mirror Bureau  
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

**P**hase I of the All India Tiger Estimation 2021-22 survey was concluded at all the tiger reserves of Karnataka on Monday. The survey included sign survey to estimate carnivore and megaherbivore occupancy and line transect survey to assess prey abundance and habitat indices.

"We completed the survey as per the schedule and there were no untoward incidents. We have submitted the faecal samples to the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). Other data is being compiled and will be submitted shortly. The survey also included scat sample collections to estimate elephant, sloth bear, sambar deer and spotted deer populations. Ungulate density estimation and habitat survey have also been wrapped up," said Mahesh Kumar, director, Nagarhole Tiger Reserve.

Conducted with the help of over 150 staff and across 56 line transects, Phase I at BR Tiger Reserve was closed ahead of time.

"We had planned the survey in two phases and completed it before the scheduled date. All the samples have been collected and sent to WII.



However, we will not be conducting camera trap surveys this year as the last year's data will suffice," said Santhosh Kumar, deputy conservator of forest, BRT range.

Under phase I, three trails of five kilometres in each beat were identified to conduct the sign survey. This was done to record the direct and indirect evidence of carnivores and mega herbivores. A total of more than 45,000 kilometres was covered on foot in the entire state to conduct this survey. For the line transect survey to estimate prey abundance data and also record the vegetation and habitat details, more than 18,000 kilometres has been traversed across the state.

While the first phase is concluded in Nagarhole Tiger Reserve, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary and Tiger Reserve, BR Tiger Reserve and Kali Tiger Reserve, all the other 41 non-tiger reserve divisions will conduct the surveys between February 10 and 28.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF  
2012  
INDEPENDENCE DAY  
THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW

MOONFALL

EXPERIENCE IT IN IMAX  
RELEASING IN ENGLISH, HINDI, TAMIL AND TELUGU  
FEBRUARY 11, 2022

PVR CINEMAS | INOX CINEMAS | CINEPOLIS CINEMAS |  
GOPALAN CINEMAS | INNOVATIVE | DRC Mysore & Other Cinemas.

farnazfever

# Let's get all charged up

Govt asks BBMP, BMRCL to allocate land for EV charging stations; ESCOMs told to give nod for stations within 24 hours

Sridhar Vivan & Nagappa Nagamarapalli  
mybangaloremirror  
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

**T**he State Government has just given a big push to the Electric Vehicle sector with Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai giving orders for 'massive' development of EV charging stations across the State.

A communiqué sent by Chief Secretary P Ravi Kumar recently said, "In order to encourage the deployment of two-wheeler EV chargers across the State, the Chief Minister has directed all the public agencies like BBMP, BMRCL, BDA, urban local bodies for installing charging infrastructure for electric two wheelers in their parking spaces without charging any ground rent." An EV manufacturer said that this was a big move as many were not buying EVs for lack of charging stations. Many were also not coming forward to install the chargers as the rent would be high. With this move, the ample space for corporations can be utilised for setting up the charging stations. Lesser rent means the charging rates could also be affordable.

The CM has also instructed the service providers to take separate electric connections from ESCOMs (BESCOM for Bengaluru) to avail of the incentive tariff for electric charge as notified by Karnataka Electricity Regulatory Commission (KERC). "The service provider will play into the agency owning the land of Re 1 per KWH unit of energy consumed for charging of the vehicles. The amount can be collected by



As of now the lack of charging stations is proving to be a stumbling block for quick adoption of electric vehicles

**CM has directed agencies like BBMP, BMRCL, BDA to allow installing charging infra for electric two-wheelers in their parking spaces without ground rent**

—Chief Secy P Ravi Kumar

providers shall be permitted to set up the charging facilities as non-exclusive basis (more than one service provider can put up the charging facility in a location).

A model agreement between the service provider and the land owning agency to be prepared by BESCOM in consultation with the BBMP.

Besides the government agencies, the State Government has also taken steps to encourage EV charging in apartment complexes. The CM has directed that the apartment complexes shall be requested to put up two-wheeler electric vehicle chargers on a service model.

Earlier, the Union Ministry of Power had promulgated the revised consolidated

Guidelines and Standards for Charging Infrastructure for EVs. The objective is to enable a faster adoption of electric vehicles in India by ensuring safe, reliable, accessible and affordable Charging Infrastructure and ecosystem. This would also promote energy security and reduction of emission intensity of the country by promotion of the entire EV ecosystem. As per the guidelines, "Any individual/entity is free to set up public charging stations without the requirement of a license provided that, such stations meet the technical, safety as well as performance standards and protocols laid down under the guidelines as well as norms/standards/ specifications laid down by Ministry of Power..."

## A push for startup incubation centre in city

**A** startup incubation centre set up by the Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) was inaugurated on Monday by the Karnataka Minister for IT-BT and Skill Development Ashwath Narayan.

This incubation centre is an addition to the existing startup ecosystem in the city and the state, the minister's office said in a statement. Speaking at the launch, Narayan said private organisations such as BCIC coming forward to set up an incubation centre would be supple-

mentary to maintain the leading position of the state in the emerging technological sphere.

Lauding the initiative, the minister said the BCIC has set up an Incubation Centre to support budding Startup entrepreneurs with the objective of providing necessary guidance, tech support, infrastructure, access to investors, networking, and facilitating a host of other resources that may be required for Startups to survive and scale. "This Incubation centre aims to further

the startup ecosystem in the state by fostering Startups to scale-up to attain a competitive edge", he explained.

Narayan also recommended BCIC to look into collaborating with public universities to achieve the objective.

According to the minister, the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) implemented by the state would help to create the skilled human resource needed for the industry. He added that the government has been supporting to sustain the momentum with forward looking policies.

—Agencies

## NATION

### Marital rape: 'Clear stand in 2 weeks'

#NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted the Centre two weeks time to clear its stand on pleas relating to marital rape.

A bench of justices Rajiv Shakdher and C Hari Shankar has adjourned the matter for February 21 granting two weeks time to clear its stand on the issues relating to marital rape.

"We worship women. This is possibly the only country where we worship women, but, when dealing with such a socially impacting question, a more holistic view is called for without which it will not be possible for the Central government in rendering justice," said Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

Last week, the Centre urged Delhi HC to defer the

hearing on pleas on marital rape issues.

The central government on Thursday filed a fresh affidavit in the Delhi High Court seeking to defer hearing on the issue relating to marital rape and said that any assistance of the Central Government can be meaningful and effective only after consultative process with the participation of all stakeholders.

"Absence of any such consultative process by the executive/legislature may result in some injustice to one section or the other," the Centre said in its affidavit.

The court was hearing a batch of petitions, including that by the NGOs, RIT Foundation and All India Democratic Women's Association.

### Nod to SII's plan to make Omicron vax

#NEW DELHI

The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has approved Serum Institute of India's proposal to manufacture a vaccine against omicron variant of coronavirus for examination, test and analysis, official sources said on Monday.

"With reference to your application, please find herewith the permission to manufacture SARS-CoV-2 rS Protein (COVID-19) recombinant spike protein nanoparticle vaccine (omicron variant) for examination, test and analysis under the provisions of New Drugs and Clinical Trials Rules, 2019 to manufacture the test batches of the drug/drugs mentioned

therein," an approval order issued on February 4 stated.

Director, Government and Regulatory Affairs at the SII, Prakash Kumar Singh had put in an application to the DCGI on January 6 stating the Pune-based firm, in collaboration with Novavax Inc, is working on the development of a vaccine against omicron, an official source said, adding that the SII has obtained permission and licence to manufacture SARS-CoV-2rS drug substance for examination, test and analysis. "... the new coronavirus variant 'omicron' has already been reported in more than 60 countries and is spreading very fast worldwide and in our country also..." SII said.

### Avalanche hits army patrol in Arunachal

#NEW DELHI

Seven Indian Army personnel, part of a patrol, are reported to have been trapped in an avalanche in the high altitude area of Kameng Sector in Arunachal Pradesh, the Indian Army said on Monday.

Search and rescue operations are currently underway. Specialised teams have been airlifted to assist in rescue operations, the force said.

The personnel have been stuck there since February 6. The area has been witnessing inclement weather with heavy snowfall since the last few days, the force said. Arunachal Pradesh is

generally divided into Kameng area on the west and Rest of Arunachal Pradesh.

Indian Army Eastern Command handles the 1,346 kilometers long Line of Actual Control (LAC), including Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

This command has three corps -- 33 Corps (Sikkim), four Corps (Kameng Sector) and three Corps (Rest of Arunachal Pradesh) to handle the LAC.

In the region, India's Border Roads Organisation has been focusing on the area for road construction after a push from the government.

—IANS



## BEST OF DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

**1 I have an obsession with lean and tall men. One of my classmates meets my criteria well and I want to have sex with him. Why do I feel this way? Is something wrong with me?**

There's nothing wrong with you. You are certainly entitled to try and fulfil your desires. However, often dreams are not fulfilled. Do not enter a relationship rashly without understanding the pros and cons. You may like to educate yourself and purchase my book, 'It's Normal,' which will help you to make a correct decision. It is available online and at book shops.

**2 I am a 27-year-old man and am a bachelor. When erect, my penis is 3.8 inches long and two inches thick. I am of the opinion that this is not a normal size, and am worried that, after marriage, I will not be able to satisfy my wife because of this. Please guide me on what I should do so as to prevent problems in the future. Your penis is more than adequate to perform intercourse. The fate of your marriage will rest on other things too, not just on the size of your penis. What is required is to be more caring and to develop greater respect for your partner.**

**3 I masturbate twice a day. As a result, my penis has shrunk and I've lost weight too. I also suffer from weakness. What is the right way to stop myself from masturbating? I think I suffer from an addiction and I need to cure it. Do not worry, you will not evaporate since masturbation does not shrink the penis or make you lose weight. Use will power to resist. Masturbate only when you are sexually excited.**

**MEET THE  
SEXPERTS**

Use this QR code to send your questions to us



# Shh... The secret's out!

Find out  
why and  
when we  
divulge  
another  
person's  
secret to  
others



**S**ecrets are a social phenomenon among humans. But when and why would someone divulge another person's secret to others?

According to a new study by researchers at Arizona State University and Columbia University, the divulging of a secret has a direct correlation to a person's morals.

The findings of the study were published in the 'Journal of Personality and Social Psychology'.

It seems that when someone learns another person's secret that breaks their own moral code, then the person who was confided in seems to be willing to divulge that secret so to "punish" the secret holder, according to Jessica Salerno, an associate professor of psychology in the School of Social and Behavioural Sciences at Arizona State University.

"Keeping things about ourselves secret is burdensome and has a negative impact on our relationships and our health," Jessica Salerno said, an associate professor of psychology in the School of Social and Behavioural Sciences at Arizona State University.

"Confiding in others is important, but we assume that the people we confide in have similar motivations to keep the information quiet as we do to protect us and prevent us from being punished for that secret behaviour. Yet, our discovery is that it's not just that people often don't keep our secrets, but they may

be inclined to actively reveal the secret to see us punished when they think the secret behaviour is immoral."

The research is based on a series of nine studies that asked participants how often they decide it is appropriate to reveal someone else's secrets and what their motivations were behind those decisions.

Salerno and her co-author, Michael Slepian of Columbia University, found a consistent trend in how often secrets were divulged and some of the motivations as to why they were divulged.

"Across a wide variety of commonly kept secrets—ranging from being unhappy at work to sexual infidelity—people revealed other people's secrets 30 per cent of the time on average," Salerno said.

"When we specified that we only wanted to know about secrets that were directly confided in our participants by someone close to them, we expected this percentage to drop a lot, but it didn't, people still revealed 26 per cent of other people's secrets that had been directly confided in them," she added.

"This means that the majority of secrets were kept but a meaningful percentage, that some might consider horrifying when they consider their own confided

secrets, were revealed to at least one other person," Salerno said.

As to why people divulged other's secrets, Salerno said, morality played a key role.

"Across many studies and situations, people were significantly more likely to reveal someone else's secret if they considered the secret to be an immoral behaviour," she explained.

"And we found out why: People are more likely to reveal other people's secrets that they think are immoral because it satisfies a (perhaps unconscious) emotional need to see that person punished for the morally outrageous secret behaviour," she said.

In fact, the role of punishment is a key in the divulging of a secret. If the person who was confided in thinks the person who holds the secret has already been punished, then they are less motivated to divulge the secret. Remove the punishment, however, and then people are more motivated to divulge the secret to fulfill that need to see them punished, Salerno said. This motivation to reveal information as punishment appeared to be limited to the realm of secret information.

"We found that when the in-

formation was a confided secret, people's decisions to reveal it or not were driven by their motivation to punish the person," she said.

"But when the same information was presented as not being a secret, people's decisions to reveal it or not was not driven by their motivation to punish the person, but instead by their desire to gossip about it," she added.

"So, this phenomenon of being more likely to reveal someone else's immoral behaviour to punish them is something specific to secrets—if the information is public, it is driven more by a desire to gossip," Salerno explained.

So why even confide in another person if you know your secret could be damaging?

While people generally keep their own misdeeds quiet to avoid punishment and reputational damage, Salerno said confiding in someone provided a relief to the secret holder.

"Keeping secrets leads to social isolation, stress, damage to relationships and health problems," she explained.

"People might reveal the secret to others to avoid these negative consequences, or also to feel close to the confidant, ask advice, or to receive social support. Being able to confide secrets—including those that are immoral—is important for people's relationships and mental health, which is why it is important to know how to choose those confidants wisely," she added.

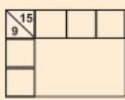
—ANI

**People are significantly more likely to reveal someone's secret if they considered the secret to be an immoral behaviour**

$$\sqrt{16} \times 9\sqrt{9^2} \times \sqrt{4} \times \sqrt[3]{8} = ?$$

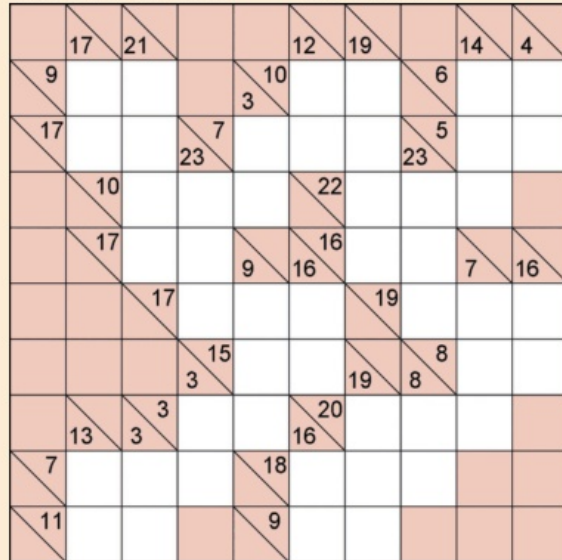
### Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

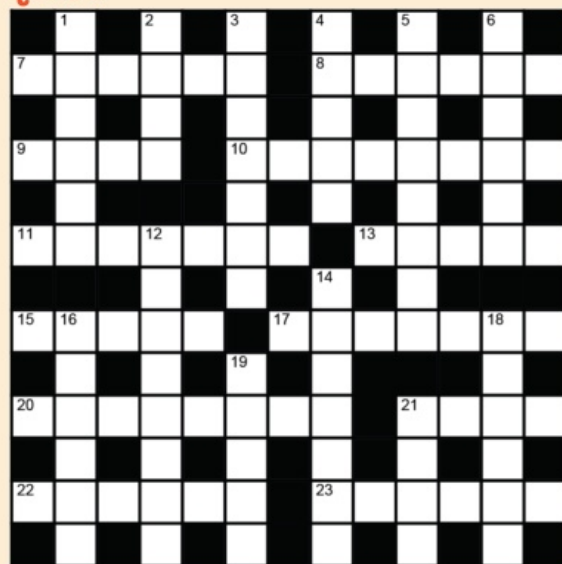


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



### Quick



#### ACROSS

- 7 Dung as fertiliser (6)
- 8 Flight of steps (6)
- 9 Filth (4)
- 10 Racetrack signalling system (8)
- 11 Mentally confused (5-2)
- 13 Imposes a penalty (5)
- 15 Off-center (5)
- 17 Arrogant (7)
- 20 \_\_ commas : quotation marks? (8)
- 21 Football kick (4)
- 22 Aston Martin driver Sebastian \_\_\_\_ (6)
- 23 Of imposing size (6)

#### DOWN

- 1 Pacific island (6)
- 2 Throw in the towel (4)
- 3 Tranquil, unruffled (7)
- 4 Analyse problem etc. in psychological manner (slang usage) (5)
- 5 Chess move (8)
- 6 Spinach—"O reach" anagram? (6)
- 12 At the \_\_\_\_ hour : at the last possible moment before it is too late? (8)
- 14 Tourniquet (7)
- 16 You will find the Bangalore Golf Club on this road (6)
- 18 Coarse seaweed (6)
- 19 Stationary (5)
- 21 Office boy (4)

### Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS N  
 DLTVDXNG ARPN VZ LNRX  
 CZLON NYONDE KANV ZVN TG  
 KNXX-CNM.



### Linemaro

Heard that? (Place her hand on your heart) My pounding heart!



### Mindchow

God loved the birds and invented trees. Man loved the birds and invented cages



### Joke of the day

Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by those who are dumber

### Loop

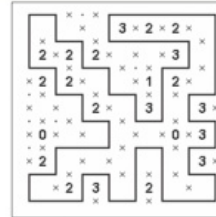
#### Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

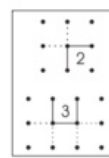
#### How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

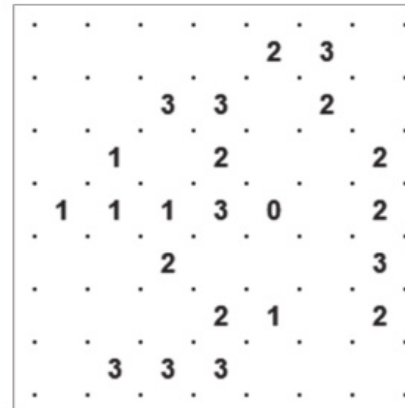
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



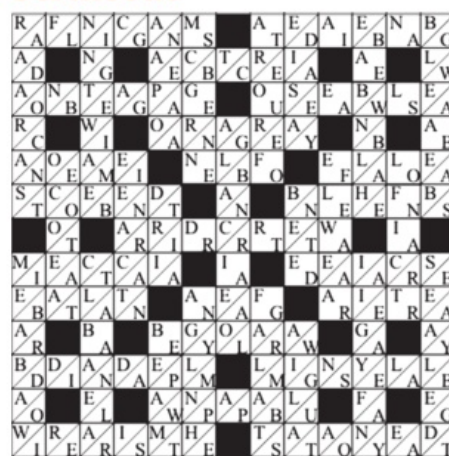
(Fig A)



(Fig B)  
Not Allowed



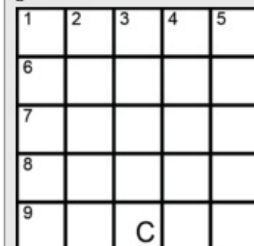
### Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

### Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



#### ACROSS

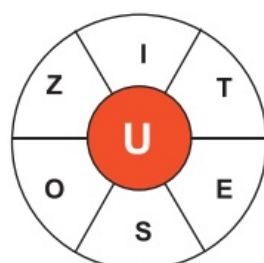
- 1 Rotes; 6 Aster;
- 7 Manat; 8 Eosin;
- 9 SK Duc

#### DOWN

- 1 St Dan; 2 A tout;
- 3 I'm cos; 4 Rakes;
- 5 Sneer

### Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last hexagon?



### Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

03 Average; 04 Good; 05 Outstanding

### SudokuChallenge



To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

### Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



#### Easy

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 18

1 2 7 9

#### Medium

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 9

2 6 8 9

#### Hard

□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □ = 32

4 9 9 8

### Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Stripes on sleeve are lower. 2. Feet are smaller. 3. Apron bow is missing. 4. Box flap is longer. 5. Bush is smaller. 6. Label on box is moved.

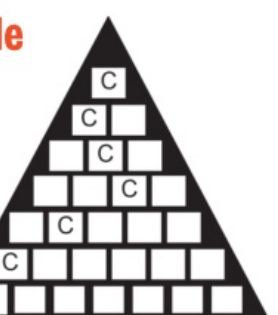
### Riddler

What connects Regina, Fredericton and Edmonton?

### Alpha triangle

- 1 Computer language
- 2 Common Era, abbr.
- 3 Expert
- 4 Small European freshwater fish
- 5 Hurt
- 6 Pursued
- 7 Didn't go together

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made



at each step answering to the clue given.

## COMICS

## Redeye by Mel Casson



## Bizarrotrip



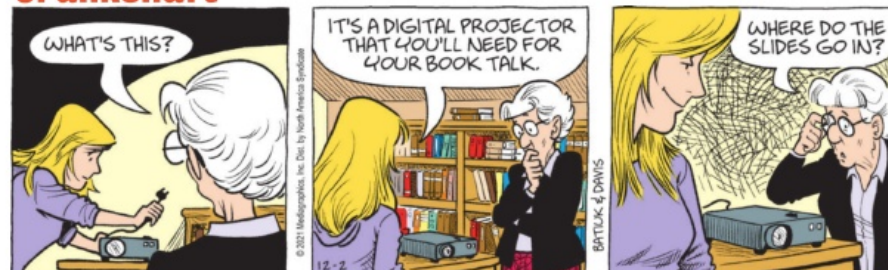
## Diamond Lil



## Hart of the city



## Crankshaft



## Mutts



## WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

**Aries** Mar 21 - Apr 20  
Today, you may be busy in a family get together and social events. You may be polite with the people around you, which may boost your prestige among them. You may spend money on buying artefacts or house hold stuff which may improve your social status. You may hear good news from a relative.

**Leo** Jul 24 - Aug 23  
Today, you may be busy at office. Due to mental fatigue, you may not be able to give time to your family. With the help of elders' blessings, job seekers may get jobs with high positions and managers may get promoted to top management. You may get rewards, which may improve your status. Professionally, you may do better.

**Sagittarius** Nov 23 - Dec 22  
Today is a good day for you. Investors may get good gains in their investments, which may boost your financial health. Money which was stuck, may be recovered. This may increase liquidity in business. You may become confident and control hidden enemies and opponents. Singles will find their match in the same field or work place.

**Taurus** Apr 21 - May 20  
Today you may be happy and blessed by the moon. You may feel healthy, which may reflect in your way of working. You may perform well in all areas of life, which may improve your prestige. Your concentration may be very good. You may make some difficult decisions in business in terms of growth.

**Virgo** Aug 24 - Sep 23  
Today you may sense some positive vibes around you, which may show you the right path. With the help of peace, your performance on every front may be noticeable. Your destiny is with you. You may plan to visit a religious place which is far from your territory. You inner sense may lead you to do some charity. You may also hear good news in terms of grandchildren.

**Capricorn** Dec 23 - Jan 20  
Today, you may feel dissatisfaction. You may not be able to handle your responsibilities. Your investments may incur losses. You are advised to read documents carefully before signing them. Parents' health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your office. It is advised to postpone renovation for some days.

**Gemini** May 21 - Jun 21  
Today your vital power may slow down. Old diseases may reappear, which may make you upset. You are advised to avoid adventurous tours or rash driving. You are advised to avoid any type of ligations. Settle things without the jury. You may also plan for an overseas tour.

**Libra** Sep 24 - Oct 22  
Today you may feel some internal weakness. Some major health issues may reoccur. You may not be able to enjoy on the domestic and professional front. Ongoing projects may stop unexpectedly and make you upset. You are advised to drive safely. Elders' blessings may help you to come out from the messy situation.

**Aquarius** Jan 21 - Feb 19  
Today, you may plan to migrate. It is advised to think twice before taking decisions regarding migration or change of place. You may also plan to change your job. There will be peace in your mind. But children's health might make you upset. It is advised to avoid speculation in investments. Love birds must be patient while taking an important decision in terms of marriage.

**Cancer** Jun 22 - July 23  
Today you may start your day with happiness. At work, you may take quick decisions, which may increase your management skills, which may give benefits in the near future. You may expect some new sources of income, which may boost your savings. Your bonding with your spouse may become better, which may result in harmony in domestic life.

**Scorpio** Oct 23 - Nov 22  
Today you may sense positive vibes around you. Things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in a partnership. You may expect long distance travelling. You will develop faith with your spouse, which will bring harmony in your domestic life.

**Pisces** Feb 20 - Mar 20  
Today, you may have good patience. Meditation may help you to improve concentration, which may help to speed up your project. Your subordinates may cooperate with you. It may help you to complete a project before time. You may go on a short trip related to work. An influential person may help you to boost your network.

KIDZONE



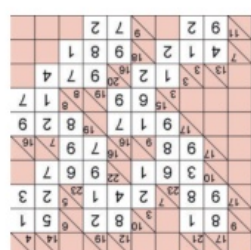
Harshitha Yenni, 8 Years, DPS North



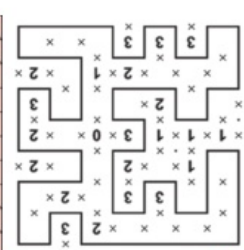
Rida Seemeen, 8 Years, Carmel Convent High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

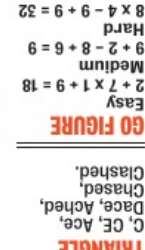
## SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



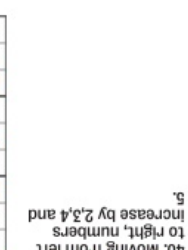
LOOP



ALPHA



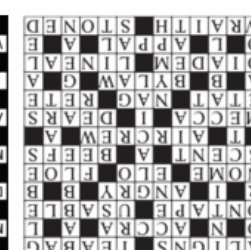
SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



SOLVE IN 1M

## Sam's sarky repartee



**Actor has fitting reply for person who got too curious**

**S**amantha Ruth Prabhu commands a huge fan following on social media. Apart from sharing pictures and videos, she is often seen interacting with her followers through Q&A sessions.

In one such interactive session on Instagram, the actor was asked about her pregnancy. Giving an epic reply to the fan, she said, 'For all those interested in the functioning of my body, I'm gonna have a baby on August 7th, 7 am, Twenty Twenty two (2022).'

Samantha, who announced her separation with husband Naga Chaitanya last year, is often bombarded with questions of personal nature. However, the actress always manages to give witty replies to each one.

Recently, the actress made headlines, when she slammed a troll targeting her and called the actress, 'divorced second-hand item'. He called her ex-husband 'gentleman'. Reacting to which Samantha replied, 'Kamarali Dukandar God bless your soul.'

Meanwhile, on the work front, Samantha was last seen in a dance number titled, 'Oo Antava Oo Oo Antava' in 'Pushpa'. The film starred Allu Arjun and Rashmika Mandanna in lead roles. She also received immense praise for the portrayal of her character 'Raji' in 'The Family Man 2', starring Manoj Bajpayee and Priyamani. — ETimes

## Disha loved being a baddie

**As her special film clocks 2 years, actor takes stroll down memory lane**

**A**s 'Malang' clocked two years, actor Disha Patani took a stroll down memory lane and reminisced working on the film. "Shooting for 'Malang' will always be one of the most special and unforgettable experiences of my life. From all the action to drama, romance and thrill, the movie had a bit of everything which allowed me to explore so many variations within myself and portray that on-screen," she said.

Helmed by Mohit Suri, the thriller also features Aditya Roy Kapur, Kunal Kemmu, and Anil Kapoor. Recalling being a part of the film, Disha added, "I was



a very exciting role and within five minutes into the narration, I said yes to it. Because, very rarely do you get the opportunity to play grey characters, and when I got it, I jumped at it. I love villains. I loved being a baddie on screen. Also, being a water baby, I thoroughly enjoyed performing water sports while shooting the film. I have had a whale of a time working with the finest of talents including Anil sir, Mohit sir, Aditya and Kunal."

Disha is now waiting for the release of 'Ek Villain Returns' with John Abraham and 'Yodha' with Sidharth Malhotra. — ANI

## Alia, SRK's film sold to Netflix at ₹80 crore?



**A**lia Bhatt, who is currently busy promoting her film 'Gangubai Kathiawadi', is all set to make her debut as a producer with her next project 'Darlings'. The film is also produced by Shah Rukh Khan's production, Red Chillies Entertainment. According to the latest reports, the makers are opting for

a digital release. Alia, Vijay Varma and Shefali Shah have already wrapped up the shooting. Now it is being said that the film has been sold to Netflix at a huge amount.

According to Pinkvilla, 'Darlings' is a dark comedy and the makers think that releasing the film on OTT might help it to reach its audience. While they were in conversation with different platforms, Netflix has bagged the streaming rights now. The report suggests that the film has been sold for Rs 80 crore.

The film is directed by Jasmeet Reen and it revolves around a mother-daughter relationship. — ETimes



## Her song on our minds

Readers tell us which one tune of Lata Mangeshkar they can't get out of their minds

**Tere Bina Zindagi Se Koi Shikwa Toh Nahin** -- because this song is immortal, meaningful and goes into the soul. —D Babu

My favourite Lata Mangeshkar number is **Jiya Jale**, a duet from the film 'Dil Se'. The song brilliantly showcased the incomparable talent of India's nightingale and proved as Shakespeare wrote about Cleopatra: Age cannot wither, nor custom stale her infinite variety. —CV Aravind

This song will not go out of my mind: **Tere Bina Zindagi Se Koi**. —Ratna J Gopal

Choosing one song is like choosing a needle from the depth of ocean. But still the one song that always haunts me is '**Yaara Sili Sili**' from Lekin. —Chandra Shekhar

From my childhood I have been listening to Lataji's songs. Each song is wonderful. With great difficulty I choose these two songs: **Lag Ja Gale** ke Phir ye Haseen Raat Ho Na Ho, and **Tumhi Meri Manzil** Tumhi Meri Pooja. —Prasanna Venugopal

**Naam Gum Jayega**, **Chehra Yeh Badal Jayega**, **Meri Awaaz**

**hi Pehchan Hai**. —Dr. Usha Gopinath

**Jiya Bekarar Hai** is my favourite song by Lata Mangeshkar. —KK Jain

**Piya Bina** from the film Abhimaan, which I hear daily before going to bed. —Sakthivel Murugesan

Undoubtedly it's **Aye Mere Watan Ke Logo**. Whenever and wherever I listen to this song, I have tears in my eyes. One of her immortal songs. —Lavakumar

Asst Commissioner of Police (Rtd)

All her songs are unforgettable but among them, I definitely cannot forget **Aap Ki Ankhon Mein Kuch** from the film Ghar. And also **Aap Ki Nazron Ne** from the film-Anpadh. —A Maheshwaran

**Do Pal Ruka** song from Veer-Zaara. —Mohammed Razain

My favourite song is **Meri Awaaz Suno**. —Sunil Varma

My favourite song is **Lag Jaa Gale** from Woh Kaun Thi. —Stephen Paul

It is difficult choose any song from the Melody Queen of India, but the song which which I cannot get out of my mind and keep repeating is **Chalte Chalte Yunhi Koi Mil Gaya Tha**. —Sharada CC

Though it is difficult to get out any song out of our minds, the one song I cannot get out of my mind is **Didi Tera Devar Deewana**. —Somasunder KS

**Aye Mere Watan Ke Logo** is an emotional patriotic song. Everyone will remember the sacrifice of the great freedom fighters. —Mahendra Rao

